May 28, 2010 1400 CST

Water Quality Protection Division

Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Region 6 Update

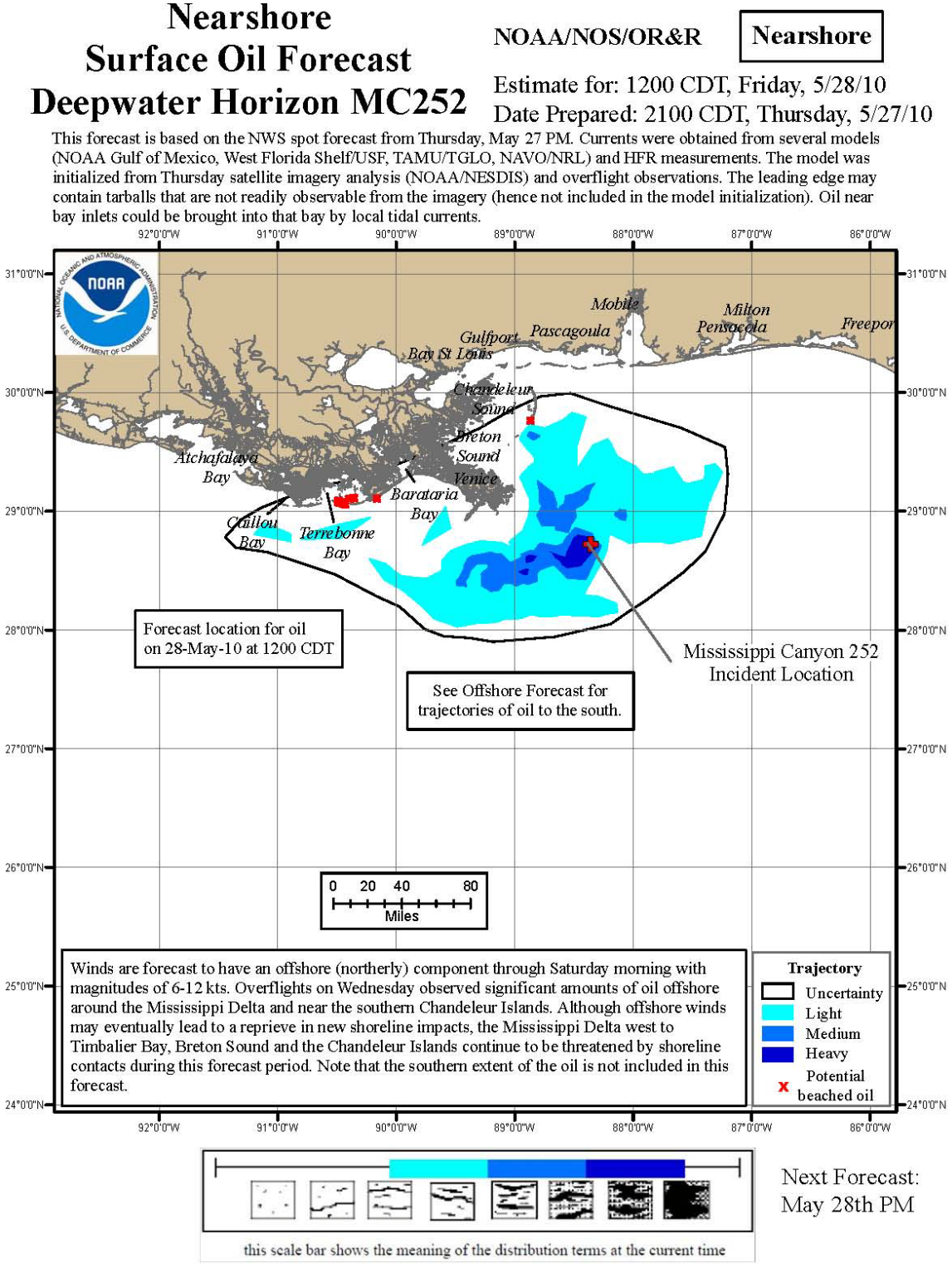
Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 21**
Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 28, 2010

Reporting Period: May 28, 2010 1300 – June 1, 2010 1300

6019509

Situation Status:

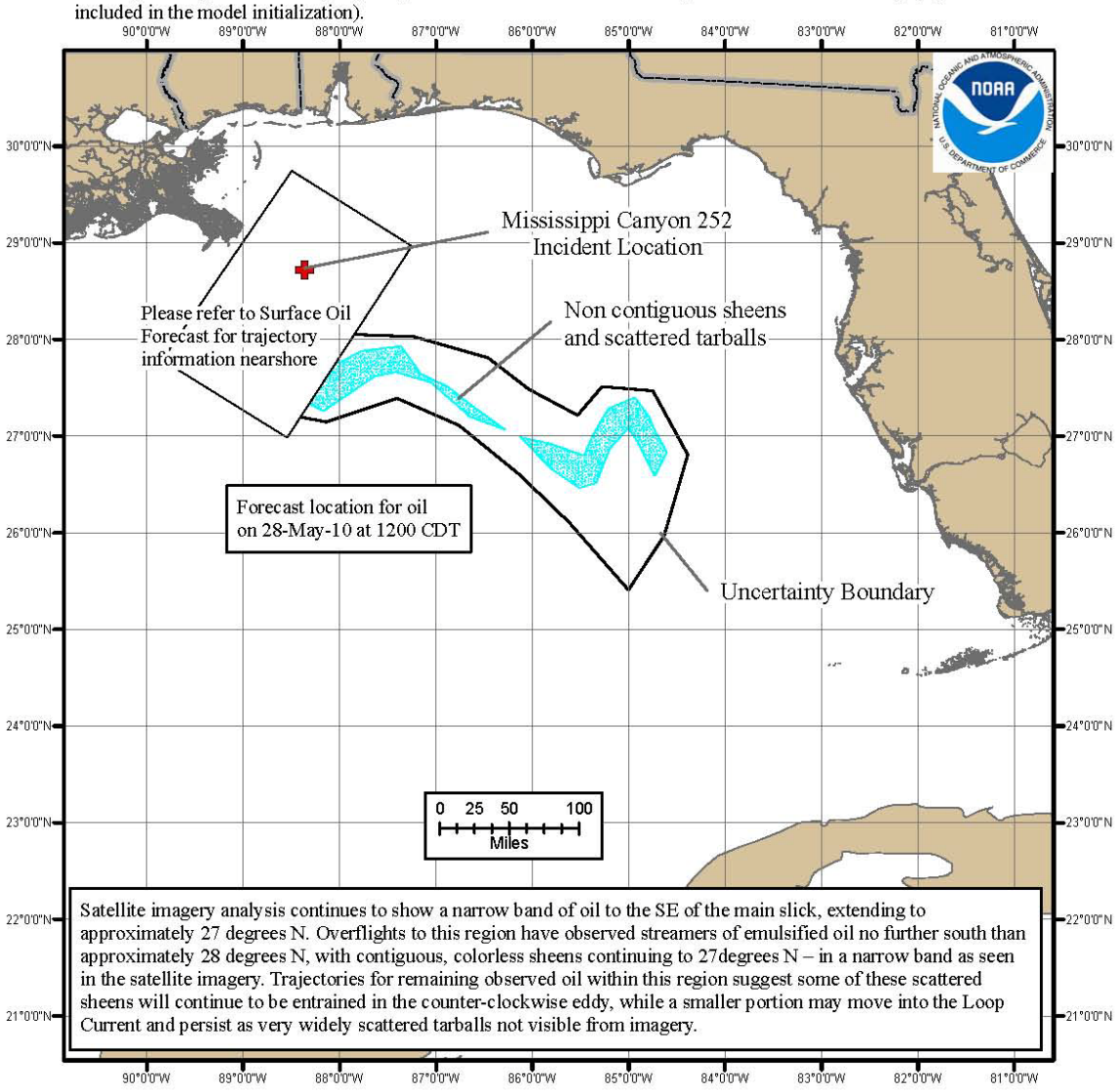


Offshore
Surface Oil Forecast
Deepwater Horizon MC252

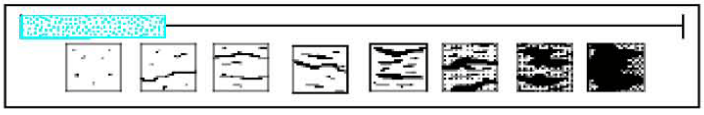
NOAA/NOS/OR&R **Offshore**

Estimate for: 1200 CDT, Friday, 5/28/10
Date Prepared: 1800 CDT, Thursday, 5/27/10

Currents were obtained from four models: NOAA Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Shelf/USF, NRL IASNFS and NC State SABGOM. Each includes Loop Current dynamics. Gulf wide winds were obtained from the gridded NCEP product. The model was initialized from Thursday afternoon satellite imagery analysis (NOAA/NESDIS) and observations from a morning overflight. The leading edge may contain tarballs that are not readily observable from the imagery (hence not included in the model initialization).



Satellite imagery analysis continues to show a narrow band of oil to the SE of the main slick, extending to approximately 27 degrees N. Overflights to this region have observed streamers of emulsified oil no further south than approximately 28 degrees N, with contiguous, colorless sheens continuing to 27degrees N – in a narrow band as seen in the satellite imagery. Trajectories for remaining observed oil within this region suggest some of these scattered sheens will continue to be entrained in the counter-clockwise eddy, while a smaller portion may move into the Loop Current and persist as very widely scattered tarballs not visible from imagery.



this scale bar shows the meaning of the distribution terms at the current time

Next Forecast:
May 28th PM

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit and HQ on the finalization of EPA's sampling plan and the screening levels that will be used in evaluating water and sediment quality sampling results. It is anticipated that EPA's sampling plan (with an appendix that includes the screening levels) will be finalized and posted on EPA's website shortly (possibly later today).

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water quality monitoring data, including results received from recently collected oil sample data (e.g., source oil, oil and debris, tarball, and mousse-like consistency oil samples) and incoming sediment toxicity testing results from samples collected at two stations.

- A staff member from the Monitoring and Watershed Assessment Section will be conducting water quality monitoring and sampling activities and coordinating with NOAA personnel on-board the NOAA vessel *Thomas Jefferson* next week.

- NOAA, FDA, EPA, and OMB have been working together to finalize protocols that will provide guidance for determining when it is safe to re-open seafood fisheries in federal waters. EPA is providing scientific/technical input in the development of the protocols, but responsibility for the decisions on fishery closure/re-openings in federal waters continues to lay with NOAA.

- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.

- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.

- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing briefings and reviews regarding the emergency Corps permit issued May 27, 2010, for portions of the State's sand berm plan. Extensive coordination is being conducted regarding the associated borrow sites, stockpile areas, and project success criteria. Coordination will begin immediately regarding the State's full application and engineering drawings, due 30 days hence.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- The Corps has coordinated with Region 6 and OW on a constant stream of emergency authorization requests for incremental work to install booms, sand bags, tiger dams, concrete blocks, and similar structures in the Chandeleur Sound and Barataria Bay. Regional staff members have been supporting responses by OW but will verify today that the lead has been delegated back to Regions 6 & 4.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Region 6, Region 4, and OW continue to coordinate on various aspects of navigation dredged material management and ocean dumping. Key topics include testing protocols and reference test site issues as they relate to many different Corps of Engineers' Gulf of Mexico navigation channel maintenance in areas of likely oil contamination.

- A decision is pending by a BP contractor, Entrix, on a Corps request (backed by rationale provided by Regional staff) for including the EPA-designated SW Pass Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) in a larger request to drag sorbent material in navigation channels to see if oil is present in the lower portions of the water column or on the sediment surface.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Regional staff and several National Estuary Program staff participated in the second Gulf Oil Spill Interagency Monitoring Coordination Call on May, 27, 2010.

- Ongoing analyses are underway concerning hypoxia, long-term landscape-scale impacts to coastal habitats, and other ecological impact scenarios.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- No changes since Thursday 5-27-2010.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- No changes since Thursday 5-27-2010.

NPDES

- Working with HQ and Region staff to determine impact of offshore drilling moratorium on NPDES permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Continue to coordinate, as required, with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting and enforcement issues.

- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.